

HUD FLASH

Covering Eastern Washington Communities



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Spokane Field Office -- Region X

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP

In any single year, HUD assists more than five million renters and homeowners—approximately 5 percent of all housing in the nation—through its various programs. The Department spends some \$4 billion each year on energy – more than 10 percent of its budget - primarily through utility allowances to renters, housing assistance payments to private building owners, and operating grants to public housing authorities.

On July 11, 2005, HUD joined with the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to announce a major new interagency partnership aimed at reducing home energy costs by 10 percent over the next decade, which can add up to hundreds of dollars per year in savings for the average American family. In fact, for most owners and renters, utility bills are the second largest household expense. Americans spend more than \$160 billion a year to heat, cool, light and live in homes, and their energy bill continues to grow. Single-family homes use about 21 percent of the energy used as a nation each year. Many households could save 20-30% on their household energy bills through cost-effective household improvements such as buying more energy-efficient products and appliances, sealing air and duct leaks, and adding insulation.

This energy efficiency initiative also could yield significant cost savings to the Federal government, to property owners, and building residents. Reducing HUD's energy bills by just five percent could yield a savings of \$2 billion over the next ten years – funds that could be used for additional operating expenditures in public housing, or additional vouchers for families.

The partnership also launched www.energysavers.gov, an online portal that will provide owners, renters, and builders with the latest home energy savings information.

To help households across the country to reduce their home energy bills, the three agencies are working together and in partnership with other leading organizations across the country to:

- Build awareness of ENERGY STAR products.
- Develop new energy efficiency services to provide homeowners with greater savings.
- Deliver energy efficiency savings to low income and subsidized housing.
- Invest in innovative research in building science technologies, practices and policies.

So ... What is HUD's contribution in this partnership?

HUD's contribution to this Administration initiative consists of two initiatives:

- **The Department-Wide Energy Action Plan** is aimed at reducing HUD's \$4 billion "energy bill" by promoting energy efficiency in approximately five million units assisted, insured or financed by HUD. The Energy Action Plan includes 21 measures aimed at upgrading the energy efficiency of existing and new housing, using an established inventory of proven energy-efficient products and appliances that can be put

to work immediately through existing programs. HUD's strategy for supporting the President's National Energy Policy through the Energy Action Plan will primarily be operational, aimed at upgrading the energy efficiency of existing housing using an established inventory of proven energy-efficient products and appliances that can be put to work immediately through existing programs. This will be accomplished through consumer education and outreach, interagency cooperation, market-based incentives, and public-private partnerships. Some research in and development of new or emerging energy-efficient technologies may also be needed, especially in HUD-financed new construction projects. You can read more about the plan by going to the following link: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/energyenviron/energy/index.cfm>

- **The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH):** A roadmap for energy efficiency in existing homes. This roadmap, developed by a roundtable of industry representatives for the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing, outlines a series of strategies for boosting energy efficient remodeling of existing homes. Working with the remodeling industry, HUD will support the development of voluntary, energy-efficient remodeling guidelines designed to give homeowners and remodelers credible and reliable approaches to energy efficient home improvements. Other activities in support of the roadmap, are piloting energy-efficient remodeling techniques for specific building types, and supporting (with EPA and DOE), expanding credentialing of energy-efficient remodeling contractors. More information on PATH can be found at: <http://www.pathnet.org/>

How Can Housing Providers Cut Energy Costs?

The Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency is working to develop new, low cost building technologies and practices to accelerate market penetration of energy efficiency in both existing and new residential buildings. Building managers can achieve remarkable results by choosing rehab options that increase energy efficiency, save time and money, reduce tenant turnover, and increase the durability of the buildings. The following Web links are designed to provide practical information to improve the energy efficiency of their properties to building managers and rental property owners wishing to make improvements.

- **The Energy Efficient Rehab Advisor**
Provides preliminary guidelines for energy efficient-renovation of single and multifamily housing. The Advisor's energy efficiency recommendations are based on ENERGY STAR specifications, where applicable. Get a tailored profile here for your building and generate a preliminary list of energy conservation measures (ECMs) with estimated costs and savings for your rehab project.
<http://www.rehabadvisor.com>
- **The Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse**
Features news and resources to help public housing authorities manage energy and water costs. The Clearinghouse includes information about Energy Performance Contracting, a financing technique that uses cost savings to repay the cost of installing energy conservation measures, as well as information on buying Energy Star products and appliances. <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/>
- **Energy Savers**
The Energy Savers website offers information and tips to improve energy efficiency for both buildings and transportation and highlights specific components and practices that contribute to better energy efficiency.
http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/
- **Energy Star**
The Energy Star website provides information about a voluntary labeling program

sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Information helps consumers and businesses easily identify highly efficient products, homes, and buildings that save energy and money, while protecting the environment. <http://www.energystar.gov/>

How Can Contractors & Builders Cut Energy Costs?

Partnership activities for the building professions include training and credentialing programs; establishment of a new standardized home energy efficiency service, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR; and development of best practices manuals for remodelers and climate-specific new home construction. In addition to the provided above links, the following Web links are designed to have relevance for every member of the builder's team -- from the manager to the site planner to the designers, site supervisors, the trades, and marketers. Materials provide guidance on energy efficiency best practices for homebuilders, home contractors, home improvement professionals and remodelers.

- **Building Toolbox**

From blueprint to ribbon-cutting, this site offers suggestions and advice on how to maximize home energy efficiency with whole building design, sophisticated construction techniques, integrated systems, energy management technologies and evaluation software.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/toolboxdirectory.html>

- **Building America**

Through spotlighting the Building America program, the Department of Energy's public/private residential research and development partnerships in collaboration with six building consortia aims to meet the goal of creating homes that generate as much electricity as they use. http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building_america/

- **Energy Solutions for Your Building**

From A to Z energy questions about your home, condo or apartment, this site offers a comprehensive set of suggestions on home energy efficiency measures, as well as an overview of home energy use.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/homes/index.html>

How Can Realtors Help Homeowners Cut Energy Costs?

Cost-effective solutions to increase energy efficiency in homes result from many individual decisions across the transaction chain, including those of consumers, retailers, manufacturers of appliances and other products, realtors, the financial organizations (now providing energy-efficient mortgages), educational institutions, and others. The Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency is pursuing cost-effective energy efficiency by leveraging the power and creativity of the market to build on the nation's progress, setting standards for more energy-efficient products, and encouraging industry to develop more efficient products. The following Web links are designed to have relevance to partners across the home transaction chain.

- **Home Energy Efficiency Mortgages**

Energy Efficient Mortgages (EEMs) recognize that reduced utility expenses can permit a homeowner to pay a higher mortgage to cover the cost of the energy improvements on top of the approved mortgage. FHA EEMs provide mortgage insurance for a person to purchase or refinance a principal residence and incorporate the cost of energy-efficient improvements into the mortgage. The borrower does not have to qualify for the additional money and does not make a downpayment on it. The mortgage loan is funded by a lending institution, such as a mortgage company, bank, or savings and loan association, and the mortgage is insured by HUD.

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/energyenviron/energy/apply/fha.cfm>

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- **Energy Solutions for Your Home**
From A to Z energy questions about your home, condo or apartment, this site offers a comprehensive set of suggestions on home energy efficiency measures, as well as an overview of home energy use.
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/homes/index.html>
- **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR**
An innovative whole-house approach to improving home comfort and energy efficiency. It depends on qualified contractors who perform a top to bottom energy inspection and make improvements. Find out if it is available in your area.
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_hpwes
- **Climate VISION**
Sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Energy, Agriculture and Transportation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Climate VISION is a public-private partnership that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The site has comprehensive information on their activities and ways to participate. <http://www.climatevision.gov>

Trainings, Workshops and Conferences

September 20th (8:00 – 12:00) – Training on HUD Environmental Review Requirements for Non-profit Organizations – Richland Council Chambers, 505 Swift, Richland. To register call – Kim McCollim – 509-353-0674.

September 22nd (8:00 – 4:30) – The Inland Empire Chapter of NAHRO (National Assn. Of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) Workshop. Best Western Inn, Moses Lake. For information call Art Noll – 509-252-7128.

October 15th – Yakima Valley Homeownership Fair – Holy Family Activity Center, 5502 W. Chestnut, Yakima. To register call Amelia Ramon – 509-854-2222.

October 19th – Fair Housing – Equal Opportunity for All -- Walla Walla Housing Authority Gymnasium, 501 Cayuse Street, Walla Walla. To register call Rosanna Morgan – 509-522-7815.

All questions, comments and suggestions for future newsletters can be directed to Kim McCollim, 509-353-0674 or email at kim_mccollim@hud.gov. Please notify us if your email address changes or you wish to be deleted from the distribution list.